

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 12

January 8, 1952 -  
December 18, 1952

0399

Outgoing, 1952

Admiral Nimitz, 8 January  
Comment on Battle Analysis

\*Admiral Spruance, 14 January 1952  
Perceptive comments on Philippines

Dear Henry (Eccles), 28 March 1952  
Comment on Naples, 1914. News of assassination of  
Arch Duke Ferdinand and comment on Battle Analysis of  
Leyte Gulf.

Dear Old Swede (Hazlett), 5 October 1952  
Comment on Eisenhower campaign

Dear Swede, 26 November 1952  
Bergen and Conolly rumors  
See also Dear Jack of 3 December

0400

January 8, 1951

Dear Admiral Nimitz:

It was a great pleasure to talk to you on the phone even for so short a time. I was sorry that I could not see you personally, but unfortunately, my stay in Alameda was very limited and was for the purpose of seeing my very sick mother who was in the hospital there.

I was interested in your comments concerning the studies I have made on the Battles of World War II. I have checked our mailing lists and I find that the three books completed to date - Coral Sea, Midway and Savo Island, were all sent to you c/o Commander Western Sea Frontier. I therefore presume that they are locked up in a safe somewhere and because they are confidential someone forgot to tell you about them.

As I told you on the phone, two of the films have been completed viz., Coral Sea and Midway. The films have been highly successful and are completely my own idea, as is the format of the book. The Army War College, the other day, stated in a letter to Admiral Conolly and in one to myself, (a) from the Commandant Army War College, Lieutenant General Edward Almond, USA -

"I had the opportunity yesterday morning to see the Battle of the Coral Sea, on which you had been good enough to secure a release from the Navy Department in order that it could be shown at the Army War College. I was very much impressed with the entire technique and presentation involved. It not only is of great interest historically but is a splendid medium for the training and education of our officers. This is so because of the critical analysis which is made so courageously all the way through the film, and I consider it of very great educational value.

"I want to go on to say that I was so much impressed with this film that I also spent three hours in the afternoon seeing the Battle of Midway, which, while a longer picture, still brought out with great clarity and in great detail the many lessons to be learned from that extremely important engagement.

0401

"The result of seeing these films is that the students at the Army War College have a better understanding of the extreme importance of these two critical Naval battles and of the continued primary importance of sea power in overall military operations. Furthermore, they have acquired an understanding of a technique that can be used in training that may be of considerable future value if we can establish a similar approach in making such a critical analysis and visual presentation of some of our major operations."

and (b) from the Deputy Commandant, Brigadier General Arthur Trudeau, USA -

"We have just completed the showing of both of the films on the Coral Sea and Midway, and they have made a tremendous impression on the class, not only from the standpoint of general interest and historical value but because of the tremendous training value to be gained by such a critical analysis of a Naval action.

"I am hoping it will have the effect of helping us to get something similar in the Army one of these days as these young graduates of ours go forth to bigger jobs.

"I want you to know, also, that we are looking forward to the Battle of Leyte Gulf if and when it is completed. So I would appreciate it if you would keep me advised when that time comes."

All of the above was highly gratifying to me as one cannot tell whether one's performances are up to par until they are put to the test.

We are now working on the Battle for Leyte Gulf and although I have been on it for something over a year, I have only finished the Allied side up to the capture of Suluan Island on October 17, 1944. The Japanese side is moving along slowly as it is only now that we have finally received enough translations from the Japanese action reports, etc. to present accurately the Japanese picture. The preliminary data is completely different from that expected from a study of the United States Strategic Bombing Survey Interrogations as well as from some of the claims of our own commanders. For example, when Admiral Halsey hit Okinawa on October 10th he stated that he had surprised the Japanese. Actually the Japanese had been expecting him; were fully alerted and had

0402

launched searches as early as 0315 to locate him.

From the above you can see that I find the work extremely fascinating and needless to say, terribly important and, although it is highly laborious, I am happy to do it so long as the need remains. Admiral Forrest Sherman appeared to have arrived at the same conclusion about the time he died.

Next time I arrive on the coast, or if you arrive in this area before that, I shall make it a point to see you.

I'm sorry in many ways that Admiral Spruance accepted that Ambassadorship to the Philippines. I think that he could be better employed elsewhere, notably Japan. Besides it is too hot in the Philippines. However, I understand that he and Margaret are very pleased so that's that I guess.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Nimitz, in which I am sure Admiral Conolly joins me, I am,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN,  
c/o Commander Western Sea Frontier,  
Treasure Island,  
San Francisco, California.

0403

January 14, 1951

Dear Admiral Spruance:

I have heard with a great deal of interest and satisfaction that the President of the United States has nominated you to be his Ambassador to the Philippines. Needless to say, this came as a surprise to me and, at first, I was somewhat opposed to it for what I considered to be two very important reasons - (a) that Manila is too hot; (b) that I did not feel that the Ambassadorship to the Philippines was quite up to your stature and I wanted you to have Japan or its equivalent somewhere.

However, after talking to your daughter and son-in-law and after discovering that both you and Margaret were very happy at your new assignment, I decided that perhaps it was well that you had accepted it. As a matter of fact, I was in California over Christmas and Admiral Nimitz asked me if it was true that you were to be the Ambassador. I replied that if he didn't know, how could I.

Your appointment has met with approval in many important quarters. In this connection, I am enclosing herewith a copy of the Herald Tribune of today which has a very friendly editorial on your appointment, and what it portends for others.

As you know, I spent four or five months in the Philippines with Admiral Kauffman. I enjoyed the assignment and met many people of interest most of whom, believe it or not, were of Spanish descent. The most charming people when we were there were definitely the Spanish people, who were the landlords and property owners of consequence. One of them was Colonel Soriano who was on General MacArthur's staff when he was Commander in Chief, Southwestern Pacific. You will run into Señor Soriano very frequently as he is the "industrial big shot" of that area. Naturally, I always kept a "weather eye" on him, but I watched his accomplishments with interest. As I recollect, he was unmarried, or seemed to be so, when I was there. There are many others in Manila of more or less consequence whom you will meet, but you may not meet them as we did for the association of an Ambassador with these people, and of a Naval commander with these people might well be different.

0404

I know that much has happened in five years and it could well be that the Philippine setup is much better than it was in 1946. Then Manila was devastated; Baguio was in very poor shape and all in all, the Philippines were in the cruel situation which is the aftermath of a devastating war. One thing was sure. The will of the Philippine people to improve themselves was definite, but it is doubtful if they desired to withdraw from the U.S. Neither did the politicians. However, the politicians were caught in their own trap and were forced to become independent, even though a significant number, if not all of them, thought it unwise to do so. I think that the Filipinos now realize that things are in very poor shape and that they will need guidance and support from the U.S. for a long time. The proof of their deterioration is the increased importance of the Hukbalahaps. We didn't give the Hukbalahaps too much weight in our day, but I often discussed them with the politicians for I realized that they could become a menace.

The Philippine Islands are becoming more and more important strategically now that the Korean situation is somewhat quieter than heretofore. For, as Korea tends to be less important, certainly Indo-China, Thailand and Malaya become more important to the Communists. This may place you in the forefront of a fearful combat in southeast Asia. I have no doubt that in such situation everyone everywhere and notably in Washington will be looking for wise guidance from the American Ambassador. On the other hand, I don't trust some of the American politicians and I don't want Raymond Spruance sacrificed for mistakes of a Washington coterie.

Your daughter and son-in-law are well and look fine.

Needless to say, I am sorry I was unable to see you when you were here, but I was away.

0405

-3-

With best wishes for success in this new job, which  
success I feel sure you will obtain, and with all best  
thoughts for the New Year to you and to Margaret, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

R. W. BATES.

Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, USN,  
Monterey Country Club,  
Monterey, California.

0406



NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
NEWPORT, R. I.

January 17, 1951

My dear Admiral Van Foreest:

I should appreciate your courtesy very much indeed if you would convey to His Royal Highness Vice Admiral Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, my deep appreciation of the high honor he has conferred on me by presenting me with an autographed photograph of himself inscribed with a personal message.

I think that the visit of His Royal Highness to the Naval War College was a very high point in the College Year, and that it did much to further the fine relations which have long existed between the Naval officers of our two countries.

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES,  
Commodore, U.S. Navy.

Rear Admiral Jonkheer H.A. Van Foreest, Neth. R.N.,  
Naval Attache,  
Netherlands Embassy,  
Washington, D.C.

0407

January 24, 1951

Dear Admiral Hewitt:

It is my understanding that you will be in this area presently and will remain awhile, presumably as a guest of your daughter. In fact, she told me about this the other day.

I am, therefore, writing to ask you if you won't visit my office, so that I may show you what I am doing in regards to the Battle for Leyte Gulf. Perhaps you may feel inclined to sit down and read what has been written to date and will give me the benefit of your vast experience. I always remember your kindness in reviewing my previous work and I feel confident that the interest still remains.

Whether you can come or not, I hope you will let me know when you arrive so that I may call on you. I have always had a deep affection for you and for your family and I consider that I have been "robbed" if you appear in this area without my having an opportunity of seeing you.

With best regards to you and Mrs. Hewitt, I am,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES.

Admiral H.K. Hewitt, USN  
Foretop,  
Orwell, Vermont.

0408

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Oscar

DATE: 25 January 1952.

FROM : Rear Admiral R.W. Bates

SUBJECT: Overhaul work on my car.

1. I am returning this "Maker of the Master" advertisement because I think that someone has made a mistake. I left my car there over the Christmas Holidays to have several tappets repaired which were making undue noise. Upon receiving my car from the transportation garage it made more noise than ever, and is so loud that the War College officers commented on it.
2. I think a lot of my Buick and think that your firm generally has excellent craftsmanship, but someone missed on this.
3. I am taking this up with you personally so no one will know about my kicks except you.
4. What do you suggest I do?

R.W. BATES

0409

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

January 30, 1952.

Dear Mr. Wickes:

This note is to thank you for your kindness in having me to dinner a few days ago at Starbord House. Needless to say I enjoyed myself thoroughly not only because the dinner with its accompanying magnum of champagne was so very fine indeed, but also because of the good fellowship which such an unusual dinner often brings to the fore. Very frankly, as it was my birthday, I had an additional appreciation of the whole affair. Thank you!

It was very interesting and a great privilege to see the photographs of certain of your more recent forebears and to hear from you certain facts about them. The manner in which you have preserved these photographs is distinctly original and I was quite impressed.

You evidently hail from a long American lineage - mine, alas! is but one generation, my father having arrived in this country in 1882. My father's father was a British General; my mother's father a Canadian newspaper publisher (small newspaper) so you can see that my background is distinctly British and Canadian and then when you discover that I was born in San Francisco, you see that I am an A,B,C boy.

I hope that you are finding that book as interesting as I found your book, "When the French came to America." Of course, du Picq was a teacher and he had a lot to give to the officers of his own time as well as to posterity. Your book on the French is very informative concerning our operations with General de Rochambeau and the caliber of both the American and

0410

French officers of those days. Admiral Conolly was quite pleased with your book and has, I think, written to tell you so.

I hope that you are improving in health from day to day. You have so much to be well about that I am anxious that you shall fully recover ere long.

Many thanks again.

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES,  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.

Mr. Forsyth Wickes,  
Starbord House,  
Narragansett Avenue,  
Newport, R.I.

0411

February 14, 1952

Dear George:

Believe it or not, I have lost your present address, so I am writing to your old office with hope that this letter will be forwarded to you. I presume that you are still in Houston.

What I am writing to you about is this. You still appear to have many friends around Newport and I am constantly being asked about you. May I ask you to answer the following queries? (a) Are you still in the Naval Reserve? If so, what is your rank and anything that you can tell me about it. (b) Where did you go for duty after leaving the War College. (c) What is the name of the newspaper with which you are now associated and what is your title? Are you on the Staff of the Scripps-Howard papers? Or are you limited to the paper with which you are connected?

As you may judge from the letterhead, I am still at the War College where I am evaluating the Naval Battles of WW II. I have finished three studies to date, Coral Sea, Midway and Savo Island, and I am now working on the Battle for Leyte Gulf which is a tremendous undertaking. Movies have been made of the first two analyses.

Newport is still quite gay. The weather has been wonderful until the last several days when it became somewhat cold, but even at that a Texan wouldn't be frozen in Newport today. The Muenchinger-King has deteriorated, but I think Mr. Mongini is making an effort to restore some of its former glories. The old open air dance porch, which you knew so well, was made into a closed restaurant during the war. The whole setup there was of inferior quality and everyone quit going to the M.K. Mr. Mongini is now building a new outside restaurant, I think above the present dining room. This may be an improvement. Your old hangout, the Reading Room, is doing very well with Mr. Gus White as President.

Take care of yourself.

With best regards, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES,  
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret).

Mr. George Hawkins, Jr.,  
Scripps-Howard Newspapers,  
New York City, N.Y.

0412

February 16, 1952

Dear Admiral Duncan:

I am seizing this opportunity to tell you of how much I appreciated the privilege of chatting with you for a few minutes during my recent visit to Washington.

I am also seizing the opportunity of telling you of how thoroughly I disagree with Senator Taft's statements concerning a lack of confidence in the military command of the United States. I cannot speak for the Senator, but I can speak for many of the officers of the Navy concerning the Navy. We have great confidence in our present naval leaders and we all feel that the team of Fichteler and Duncan is tops! I sincerely hope that Senator Taft's statements have not had an adverse effect around the higher echelons of the Navy. However, I am afraid that they have had an adverse effect on the general public which may have, in turn, an unhappy effect on Congress.

Admiral Conolly will be down in Washington presently and I am sure that he will see you. He is a wonderful President of the War College!

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Admiral D. B. Duncan, USN,  
Vice Chief of Naval Operations,  
Room 4E628, Pentagon Building,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

0413

February 28, 1952

Dear Admiral Nimitz:

This letter is in reply to yours of February 2nd, wherein you requested information as to the location of the films of the Battle of the Coral Sea and Battle of Midway.

Since the Naval War College has nothing to do with the distribution, I was unable to reply until I had communicated with the proper authorities in Washington. I have now been informed that there is one print of each of these films in the Twelfth Naval District Film Library so I am sure that any time you wish to see them they will produce them for you.

For your information, the Battle of the Coral Sea is in three sections - the Battle of Midway in four. The reason for breaking them up was to permit instruction in the book to be parallel with the film. By breaking up the film into sections the whole film need not be shown at any one time. For your information, the Battle of the Coral Sea takes  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours - the Battle of Midway  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

We have had some drastic weather in New England recently with snow at pretty high levels. For example, although snow depth was but six inches in Newport, it was twenty inches on Cape Cod, disrupting all communications, and it is still snowing there today. I really don't mind these snows as the only way to appreciate the good is to have a taste of the bad.

From all that we hear, the War College is going very well indeed and as you, as the Chief of Naval Operations, really reactivated it in full strength at the end of the war, you can share in its success. As a matter of fact, I am on my way to New London tonight despite the snow, to give a discussion on the Naval War College before the Connecticut Chapter, Naval Academy Alumni Association.

0414



-2-

Needless to say, I always enjoy hearing from you. If you ever need information, if you will only write me, I will do my utmost to provide what you desire.

Thank you very much for your very friendly remarks concerning my three products - Coral Sea, Midway and Savo Island. They were very laborious to prepare, but even labor, if it is a labor of love, is not too difficult.

With warmest personal regards to you and Mrs. Nimitz, in which I am sure Admiral Conolly joins me, I am,

Sincerely,

R.W. BATES,  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret)

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN,  
728 Santa Barbara Road,  
Berkeley 7, California.

0415

March 3, 1952

Dear Mr. Bealle:

That book of yours "Gangway for Navy" is a clever idea and is very interesting indeed. I enjoyed reading it and it brought to mind the happy days of long ago.

I should like to suggest several changes regarding myself which should be made should the book be rewritten. The football player named Bates on the 1911, 1912, 1913 and 1914 teams was Richard W. Bates not John or Johnny Bates. So, when you re-edit this I hope that you will replace John Bates on pages 91, 93, 95, 97 with Rafe Bates as my Navy nickname was at that time and still is. If you think it better, you could make it Dick.

Also on page 244 under Rear Admiral, after Charles Austin, you should put "Richard W. Bates, back 1911-1914." The date of my commission as a Rear Admiral is April 30th, 1945.

Also on page 273 "player index" John Bates should be deleted and for Dick Bates you should have 1911-1914.

Very truly yours,

R.W. BATES,  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.

Mr. Morris A. Bealle,  
Columbia Publishing Co.,  
P.O. Box 1623,  
Washington, D.C.

0416

February 29, 1952

Dear Captain Foley:

I was very pleased last night to see a recent graduate of the War College still interested enough in this college to attend the Alumni Meeting.

Personally, I thought that the meeting was excellent, and I regretted very much that it started so late that I was unable to complete what I had to say, or to answer questions.

However, to you, as the Chief of Staff of the Submarine Force, I have a thought to offer which thought I had planned to bring out last night. The thought is this - that officers who have devoted most of their lives to submarine work, and officers who have devoted most of their lives to air operations, would do well to take the course at the War College, if possible. The reason for this is that Flag Officers must be familiar with the capabilities and limitations of the other branches of their own service as well as of the Army and the Air Force. We here know of no other place where such considerations can be better studied than at the Naval War College.

The President of the Naval War College, Vice Admiral R.L. Conolly is constantly stressing this point to the highest ranks in Washington. He wished me to bring it out last night, but I couldn't do it. I am, therefore, giving this idea to you with the thought that if you and Admiral Murray subscribe to it you will disseminate it.

My best to you, as ever,

Yours sincerely,

H.W. BATES,  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret).

Captain R.J. Foley, USN,  
Chief of Staff,  
U.S. Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet,  
Submarine Base,  
New London, Conn.

0417

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Admiral Conolly

DATE: 1 July 1952

FROM : Commodore Bates

SUBJECT:

1. Was glad to hear from Helen that your trip to London on the Darby was very satisfactory and I am delighted.
2. I hope that the Ford car which was to meet you did so and that you are now underway merrily.
3. Don't worry about the War College. Colonel Berkley is Acting President and seems to have the situation in hand and all is quiet.
4. The social situation in town is quite active, but you are better off where you are.
5. I plan to go to California sometime between the 7th and 9th of

-1-

0418

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE:

FROM :

-2-

SUBJECT:

July, returning at the end of the month.

6. For your information, a Selection Board is meeting presently composed as follows: Seven Vice Admirals - Hall, Price, Low, Gardner, Martin, Ofstie and DeLaney. Two Rear Admirals - Brown and Phillips. There are more stars on this Board than have been around for a long time. I don't know why. Should I discover why, I will let you know. Perhaps you know already or at least can suspect the reason.

7. We continue to hear friendly comments on the War College and in particular on the Global Strategy Discussions. We should increase the civilian content next year to about seventy-five.

-2-

0419

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE:

FROM :

-3-

SUBJECT:

8. The weather has been generally excellent and everyone is enjoying it.

9. The circus (Barnum & Bailey) came to town and everyone went, including me. I took Commander Hartmann's children. They enjoyed it. So did I!

10. I gave Mrs. Mahoney an editorial from the San Francisco Examiner concerning the Global Strategy in the War College. Very friendly to you. I hope that you have seen it.

11. Forget the War College and enjoy your European jaunt to the fullest!

12. My best to Jerry Wright and any others that I might know. With best regards, as always,

R.W. BATES.

0420

March 11, 1952

Dear General Almond:

This is merely a note to tell you how much I enjoyed my visit to your War College, and how much I enjoyed the dinner which you and Mrs. Almond gave Admiral Conolly. In the case of the latter, I have written to Mrs. Almond to express my personal appreciation of her excellence as a hostess, and my pleasure at having been included in the dinner list.

Needless to say, I noted that your War College runs very smoothly indeed, and I was impressed at what can be done in a new organization, if the leadership is there. There were many niceties being shown visitors which I not only observed, but frankly enjoyed.

I am sorry that we were unable to remain for Secretary Alexander's talk, but all of us had missions elsewhere. I, for example, was to have lunch with Rear Admiral J.H. Brown, Jr., who is Commandant of the Fourth Naval District. I was to discuss with him the employment of the Pacific Ocean Area submarines in the Battle for Leyte Gulf.

Admiral Kalbfus was very interested in the fact that I had seen you. He is a most ardent admirer of yours and asked me many questions, all of which I could, happily, answer.

I had one regret at your War College -- I missed my old friend General Trudeau.

With my best regards, and with best wishes for your continued success, I am,

Very Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Lieutenant General Edward Almond, USA,  
Commandant, Army War College,  
Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

0421

March 28, 1952

Dear Henry:

For a long time I have refrained from writing you because I realized that by so doing it merely meant that you had to take time off to answer, and under the present pressure of events, this seemed unreasonable. So, don't answer this if you don't have time, but tell me about it when you return here to Newport.

First, I want to say that I have watched and listened with interest to the reports coming from your area. I have been particularly interested in seeing how well you were making out in your present assignment, as I have always considered you the top man in the field. From what I hear you have lived up to that expectation, which is a great tribute to yourself and to Admiral Carney who took you under somewhat adverse conditions.

I have no doubt but that you are enjoying yourself thoroughly and have found yourself to be quite able to compete with the best.

I appreciated receiving your Christmas card, with a friendly note, very much indeed, but for reasons stated in the first paragraph I refrained from commenting on it until now. The little photograph of Naples gives me nostalgia. I remember that place well, even though I have not been there since 1914. As a matter of fact I was at a dance at the Royal Tennis Club in Naples when word arrived of the assassination of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand. I was talking to a Spanish Duchess in my best Midshipman Spanish when the shock whisper passed down the dance floor, and she told me what had occurred. Much water has flowed under the dam since then! British sea power has been replaced by American sea power. The result is, of course, that instead of visiting Naples, we are now based there.

We have had a very pleasant winter in Newport. The weather was bad only twice and then for but one day. I pass your house at intervals, and have been interested to learn, through rumor, that you were planning to occupy it.

0422



The War College is going along famously and I think your section is doing well. You gave it its birth and early childhood; Sweeney has been moving it into adolescence; when the college succeeds in passing it through adolescence and into manhood, the job will be finally done.

My work is progressing slowly but surely. I finished Savo Island, as you know, and I am about to make a film of it. The contract has been let and we have had a meeting on it. The films of the Coral Sea and Midway have been completed and have been found to be highly successful. I have been working for the past year and a half on the Battle for Leyte Gulf. This will take a much longer time than the others because it is a campaign with a number of battles rather than one small battle such as Savo Island. By early fall I hope to put out Volume I, which will be "background." Admiral Hewitt has been in and has read through what I have written on the Allied side and says that he is surprised in that he agrees with it thoroughly in almost every point. I avail myself of Admiral Hewitt's ability to provide me with an outside view on my strategic and tactical concepts.

Admiral Rollo Wilson is reviewing Admiral Halsey's operations and Admiral Yeomans is reviewing the CinCPOA Submarines. The work is very laborious as the ships and planes in this action were very great in number. In fact, the battle was one between the principal fleets of two major navies. I have had a terrible time getting translations and getting the material to translate, but we have done reasonably well, and the result is worth the effort. My staff during most of this time has been two officers, where as, with the much lesser battles, it was four. This matter is now being remedied and I will end up with a staff of five officers, plus one Chief Yeoman, one Chief Quartermaster, and one Yeoman Second Class. I have been told, albeit unofficially, that this friendly attitude in Washington is because my books have now reached a position of consequence, which, needless to say, is very gratifying. You, of course, forecast this long ago.

Give my very best regards to Mick Garney. I have always had a great affection for him and believe thoroughly in his ability as a sailor - a combat sailor - to produce victory.

0423

Also give my best to your beloved Izzie who is a sweet-heart and no mistake!

I am generally fine!

By the way, your old friend Vladimir Behr died suddenly of a heart attack last night in Washington.

Take care of yourself.

Sincerely,

R.W. BATES.

Captain Henry J. Eccles, USN,  
Assistant Chief of Staff,  
U.S. Naval Forces,  
Eastern Atlantic And Mediterranean,  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
New York, N.Y.

May 22, 1952

Dear General Irving:

Having just returned to Newport I am seizing this opportunity to express to you my personal gratification at having been a delegate to the wonderful Sesquicentennial which you and West Point conducted. Very frankly I thought that it was beautifully handled. I was particularly impressed with the fact that the organization was so thorough that when it rained and everything was transferred from "outdoors" to "indoors" things went as smoothly as though they had been arranged that way from the start. I particularly enjoyed my association with certain members of your staff who guided my interests as well as those of the others. I refer particularly to Brigadier General Harris Jones, and to Colonel Boyd W. Bartlett of the Steering Group and Lieutenant Colonel Stewart L. McKenney of the Sesquicentennial Staff who were admirable in every way.

As I get around quite a lot, I want you to know that everyone was thoroughly delighted and I heard nothing but praise, and that of the highest, for the conduct of the operation.

Finally, it was extremely nice of you to invite me to your home Tuesday night after the banquet. I enjoyed meeting your lovely wife there and she was extremely gracious to us all. That was a fitting climax to an unusual and charming day.

With congratulations on your accomplishment and with best wishes as always to West Point, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES,  
Commodore, USN (Ret).

Major General Frederick A. Irving, USA,  
Superintendent,  
United States Military Academy,  
West Point, New York.

0425

May 22, 1952

Dear Bill:

It was a great pleasure to see you at West Point. This was the first time that I have seen you since you became the Chief of Naval Operations and I was pleased, as I told you at the Point, to see how easily you are taking the responsibilities of your office. At least your general appearance gives that impression very clearly and I am delighted about it.

I was very interested in your discussion of the situation in the Mediterranean-Middle East Area and I am sorry that, because of certain interferences, I was not able to discuss it more fully with you.

I have taken the liberty of telling Admiral Conolly of our conversation. I found, to my great interest, that he has very surprising knowledge of the Southern European-Mediterranean-Middle East picture. Evidently, as CINCELM, he gained a vast background of knowledge concerning the whole area and well knows the considerations which probably motivate the British today. He told me a little about it this morning. I think that this information should not be lost, and might be helpful to our high command in formulating our own concepts and in countering other concepts.

I thought that the whole affair at the Point went very well indeed. I think that events of this kind help to keep the Armed Services before the Country.

Once again, I was very glad to see you and I appreciate the confidence you gave me in discussing, in a limited way, some of the problems which befall you as Chief of Naval Operations. Finally, I want to reiterate what I wrote you long ago, to wit, that the Navy has confidence in its leadership and feels, in this regard, that it is superior to the other services. Strange as it may seem the other services seem to think so too!

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Admiral William M. Fechteler, USN,  
Chief of Naval Operations,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D.C.

0426

June 20, 1962

Dear Ross:

I am hearing rumors from various sources that you are about to retire. I knew when you were here that you expected to retire about this time, but since I had heard nothing from you I have thought little of it. Now I am writing to wish you farewell.

You and I have been friends for a long time and I shall view your departure from the Navy with sincere regret. I know that you always made a fine reputation for yourself in your various assignments, but, in particular, here in Newport where the memory of your accomplishments lives long after your departure.

I shall be in California the last three weeks in July. If you are retiring on the Coast, I hope at that time to see you.

Please give my warmest regards to Adelaide. I feel confident that she is looking forward to her career in civilian life with the same confidence that you are. You will do well!

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Rear Admiral R.A. Cooley, USN,  
Deputy Commander, Western Sea Frontier,  
Treasure Island,  
San Francisco, California.

0427

June 20, 1952

Dear Oscar:

Today I received an invitation from you inviting me to the change of command ceremonies when you turn over your command to Admiral Delaney.

I am very sorry I am unable to attend as I am preparing to go to California on leave about that time.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you of my sincere regret that the age-in-grade law forces the Navy to give up your services. You have always been an extremely capable officer of outstanding military attainments, and you have always had the respect and confidence of your subordinates in all phases of Naval operations. In the more recent years as Chief of Staff to Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, as the Director of Logistics Plans, as the Commanding Officer of the North Carolina, later as Commander Allied Naval Forces, Far East, and finally as Commander Eastern Sea Frontier, you have set a record of accomplishment which few, if any, naval officers have equalled in modern times.

I wish you and Isabel all happiness in your retired life, and I know that, in what ever new career you decide to follow, you will excel as you have done in the Navy.

With very best regards, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Vice Admiral Oscar C. Badger, USN,  
Commander Eastern Sea Frontier,  
90 Church Street,  
New York, N.Y.

0428

7 July 1952

Dear Commander Leger:

I am certainly glad that you are taking leave. It is good for the soul.

I was pleased to hear that, on your return, you will be able to present Norman's case to the Review Board.

However, I had expected to either be called as a witness by you or, if you disapprove of that, then to write a letter to the Board stating:

- (1) That Captain Ross flatly and unequivocally stated to me on several occasions once within the past two years, that he thought that the Navy, through overlarge doses of emetine, had ruined Norman's health and forced his retirement. He also said that at the time he had stated that Norman would never recover.
- (2) In the Spring of 1942 I went to the Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps in Washington and asked if they would recall Norman to duty. I thought that if I could get him on duty it might help. The Marines said they would be very glad to get him if I could get the Navy to approve. I went to the Surgeon-General's Office and asked the Assistant Surgeon General if he would order Norman back to duty. He gave me a flat "no", saying that he was a physical wreck and would not last at all. How correct he was I did not know until I prevailed on Mr. Christy to engage Norman. As you know, Norman collapsed in two days.

What is your reaction? I shall be back by the end of July.

Best to you!

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Commander George J. Leger, USN,  
Office of the Judge Advocate General,  
Room 2B52,  
Bureau of Yards and Docks,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D.C.

0429

August 1, 1952

Dear Lem:

I have just returned from a visit to the Pacific Coast where I had the good fortune to spend a few days at the Bohemian Grove. I happen to be a non-resident member. I had a splendid time and found the Grove up to standard. I noted, among others present, ex-president Hoover, who, by the way, is always there. I also noted both Holland Smith and Roy Hunt. These two generals are in excellent shape and when I told them about your visit to the War College for the Global Strategy Discussions they were quite interested. They asked me, when I saw you, to give you their best, so here it is.

The Grove play, which will be performed on Saturday night, is set in Scotland in the days of Bonnie Prince Charlie and employs the bag pipe band of the Sixth Army. It appears to be excellent and I am sorry that I am unable to see it. Roy Hunt has one of the more important parts - he is a Scottish Chief. I sure would like to see him in his "kilties."

Norman also asked to be remembered to you. I understand that his appeal case comes before General Howard's board next week. I certainly hope that he receives a high disability rating, as he is really in poor shape and has been for years.

When I return to Washington, presently, I shall avail myself of your invitation to luncheon. When I was last in Washington I called your office to announce my presence and discovered that you must have heard of my coming for you had left that morning for California.

That was quite a story that I read in a San Francisco paper about the Marine rifleman, the Marine "live" bait, and General Taylor Seldon! Those Marines are sure tough!

With very best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., USMC,  
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps,  
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.

0430



August 7, 1952

Dear Commander Leger:

Your letter announcing your victory before the Appeal Board of the Marine Corps in the case of my brother Norman was received with intense satisfaction. I have wired Norman as you suggested and I know that he is overwhelmed with his good, and well deserved, fortune.

I cannot thank you too much for the brilliant manner in which you handled this case. When I talked to you on the phone Thursday night last in Washington I could tell from your discussion that you had a complete knowledge of the various factors. If you will recall, I told you then that I thought you knew more about the medical aspects of this case than even the doctors. I am personally of the opinion that whereas Norman contributed a fair share towards this good success, nothing could have been accomplished without someone of your competence and faith to carry the ball directly to the Board.

I want to write a letter - naturally a personal one - to the Judge Advocate General about your success, but I don't want to do it until you advise me as to the best time.

Once again, let me thank you again for your outstanding performance.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Commander George J. Leger, USN,  
Office of the Judge Advocate General,  
Room 2B52,  
Bureau Yards & Docks Annex,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D.C.

0431

August 14, 1952

Dear Ned:

I am enclosing herewith an article on changing sea water to fresh water, developed, in part, by a professor at M.I.T. named E.R. Gilliland. Evidently a company named Ionics, Inc. is developing this.

Since you are a Dean of M.I.T. I thought that you might know something about this. Is it any good? Naturally, in my mind, any device of this kind, if successful, should be of enormous importance not only in Los Angeles and Israel, but in many other areas as well.

It was wonderful to see you up here during our Global Strategy Discussions, since your presence here stimulated very much the morale of the staff and student body. Besides, your brain and experience contributes much to everyone.

Dick Conolly has just returned from Europe where he spent a wonderful holiday. I spent mine in California. T'was swell!

With best regards and with hopes that I am not bothering you with my queries, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Vice Admiral Edward L. Cochrane, USN(Ret),  
U.S. Department of Commerce,  
Maritime Administration,  
Washington 25, D.C.

0432

August 18, 1952

Dear Ira:

I am writing to commend to you the extremely capable services of a member of your staff, Commander George J. Leger, U.S. Navy.

My brother, Major Norman C. Bates, USMC(Ret), was retired in 1933 and remained on the retired list throughout World War II being entirely unfit for duty.

With the re-rating of disabled retired personnel under the Career Compensation Act of 1949 my brother, to the surprise of everyone, was given a physical disability rating of "Zero" when the general expectation of those who knew his case was more nearly 100%. I spoke about this to Captain Robert Bell, Medical Corps, whose division made the original recommendation. Then and there, on his recommendation and with the advice of many senior officers, such as Vice Admiral John McGree, I endeavored to prepare an appeal.

When my brother and I had finally obtained the necessary appeal data-it took two years-we sought counsel. Admiral McGree recommended Commander Leger, who, on my brother's request, was assigned to this case. What a wise recommendation that was! For, with his entry on the scene, our troubles vanished. Commander Leger handled everything and my brother and I thereafter followed his recommendations throughout.

About two weeks ago the case was heard before the Marine Corps Appeal Board. It was handled entirely by Commander Leger and from what I hear from the Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps (by personal letter to me) was very well presented indeed.

0433

-2-

Since, in the Navy, one only gets "a kick in the fanny" or "a pat on the back" in recognition of work done and since the former is more likely than the latter, it seems only fair that I take this opportunity of bringing to your attention the able qualities of this devoted officer who with competence and faith has carried this assigned duty with conspicuous success.

With very best regards, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Rear Admiral Ira H. Hunn, USN,  
Judge Advocate General,  
Room 4E794, PENTAGON BLDG.,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D.C.

0434

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Emil Jemall

DATE: 20 August 1952

FROM : R.W. Bates

SUBJECT: Comments last evening

1. I was, of course, interested in your comments last night since one is rarely known to those around him. However, it is gratifying to discover that one's labors are becoming gradually recognized. I had hoped that you, as an eminent press authority, would have had a better appreciation of what I am doing here else you would not have been surprised.

2. Here is an article by Sam Morison. Observe his comments on pages 264-265. Please return.

3. Some day I will tell you fully what I am doing. Unfortunately my work is confidential.

4. T'was nice to see you and your lovely wife.

R.W. BATES

0435

September 5, 1952

Dear Roy:

I am enclosing herewith an address by Vice Admiral Richard L. Conolly, USN on the Principles of War which he has just delivered here and which I think is superior to most presentations of this type. I have suggested to him that perhaps the Naval Institute might be interested in publishing his address. Admiral Conolly said that if the Naval Institute was interested he would amplify it somewhat. He is very modest and can't believe that something that he has done is worthy of publication.

Please look this over and advise whether you will accept it and what you will pay for an article of this kind.

It is always nice to see that you are still with the Institute and that it is as successful as it is. Some of the recent articles by the Japanese I find quite interesting indeed.

With best regards, I am,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Commander Roy De S. Horn, USN(Ret),  
Managing Editor,  
United States Naval Institute, Proceedings,  
Annapolis, Maryland

Enclosure: Admiral Conolly's speech.

0436

August 25, 1952

Dear Commander Leger:

For your information, I wrote a letter (copy enclosed) to the Judge Advocate General concerning your performance of duty with relation to the case of my brother, Major Norman C. Bates, USMC(Ret). Admiral Nunn replied in a very friendly fashion and a copy of his reply is herewith enclosed.

Once again, thanks for everything.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Encls: Copy of COMO Bates' ltr to JAG dtd Aug 18th, 1952  
Copy of RADM Nunn's ltr dtd Aug 20th, 1952.

Commander George J. Leger, USN,  
Office of the Judge Advocate General,  
Bureau Yards & Docks Annex,  
Washington 25, D.C.

0437

September 22, 1952

Dear Commander Leger:

I received your last letter with a great deal of concern because the case, so far as I am included in it, is very sad indeed! I am glad you haven't informed Norman about your rumors as yet, because he might go into a nervous breakdown.

In looking at the Department of Defense Directory I discovered a so-called PR Council consisting of Captain Fink, Captain Johnson, Captain Bell and Colonel Swanson. Can this be the Board that passed on Norman's case? I cannot believe it!

If these people are the ones who may have made what your rumors state is a 30% recommendation I think that it is illegal because these same men, particularly Bell and Johnson, passed on my brother's case originally.

If you have any thoughts on what I can do on this case, if your rumor is correct, please advise me at once.

I think that your orders are excellent and I am very pleased if I helped in any way. You will enjoy the assignment. Jacko is a fine fellow, and a tip-top fighting man. He will rely on your judgement in law matters completely.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Commander George J. Leger, USN,  
Office of the Judge Advocate General,  
Room 2B52, Yards & Docks Annex,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D.C.

0438



*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Admiral Conolly

DATE: 26 September 1952

FROM : Como Bates

SUBJECT: The Principal of War; manuscript

1. Thank you for your memorandum.
2. You are doing exactly as I expected you would do and as all writers do. I had no expectation that you would accept my recommended changes as final. Henry Eccles didn't accept them either, I merely alerted him to a different way of wording things and at the same time alerted him to the idea that what he wanted to say was probably not as clear as he would like since I misunderstood it.
3. There was no intention on my part to change the ideas which you had in your original manuscript. If the ideas were changed in a few places, the reason must have been that they had somehow been lost to me - possibly because your original discussion, while perhaps clear to you,

0439

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE:

FROM :

SUBJECT:

-2-

was not so to me.

4. I think the article is especially fine and it was for this reason that I recommended that you have it published. I am still of this opinion whether you accept my recommendations or not. Our officers have much to learn!

R.W. BATES

0440

October 2, 1952

Dear Lem:

I think you will be interested to know the progress of Norman's case which your Marine Corps Appeal Board had recommended for an 80% disability. Apparently the papers finally ended up at what is known as the PR (Physical Review) Council. The PR Council, which consists of three Captains and one Marine Colonel, did not accept the 80% and recommended a 30% disability.

This was a great surprise to me for the medical member of that Board, Captain Robert Bell, had advised me personally as to how to proceed with the appeal and had told me that had his board known of Norman's real condition they would have given him a much higher rating than that originally recommended, which was "Zero." It was on Dr. Bell's friendly advice that we drew up the appeal, and I personally feel indebted to him.

In this connection it is well to point out that this PR Council, which has now recommended Norman for 30%, is, more or less, the same Council that gave him the "Zero" rating. If there is anything which appears queer to me it is to have the Appeal Board papers referred back to the same group who had messed it in the first place.

It is my understanding that the final decision is now to be made by Assistant Secretary Floberg. It is also my understanding that the Judge Advocate General's office has accepted the Appeal Board's decision "in toto" and that the Special Assistant to Secretary Floberg for these matters (I presume Commander John B. Ferriter) has accepted the opinion of the Appeal Board as supported by the Judge Advocate General's office. It is my further understanding that the chances are very great that under this situation the Secretary will also approve the Appeal Board's recommendation. The papers are in his office.

Norman's counsel in this case is Commander George C. Leger in the Judge Advocate General's office. Leger is evidently quite capable, and I have been very pleased with his work

0441

although he told me on the telephone yesterday that he had missed a point by not following the workings of the PR Council closely as he might have explained the case to them, in which case they might have given a different opinion. I doubt this, though, for the action of the PR Council appears to me to be that of a narrow group who having made the first recommendation on little evidence (Norman's brief plainly showed that much of the vital material was lacking to the original board which gave him a "Zero" disability rating) now continue to maintain their original opinion with little change despite all of the new evidence which was so convincing to your Appeal Board.

I am writing to you in particular because you told me how unhappy you were over the manner in which many of your deserving Marine cases had been handled. If there ever was an example of this it is, in my mind, the action of the PR Council in Norman's case.

I am also writing to you because I hope that you may have a further interest in this matter and may feel inclined to look into it to insure that your Marine Corps Appeal Board's recommendation, which I consider fair and just, is the recommendation accepted by the Secretary.

With very best regards, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., USMC,  
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps,  
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps,  
Washington, D.C.

0442

October 3, 1952

Dear Old Swede:

I cannot tell you with what delight I received your recent letter relative to my telephone call from the West Coast. It was a charming letter and I was very glad indeed to hear from you.

Of course, I had known that Alice was to be married, presumably next year, to the son of our mutual old friend, Scrappy Kessing and we are all pleased about that. It is much better to merge old families which are not blood relations than to bring in strangers who may be of little or no consequence. I certainly look forward to being present at the time of the wedding and I shall do everything possible to be there. However, we will discuss that later.

Your letter bothered me somewhat in that it gave an indication that you were possibly not too well, as indicated by your statement that I might have to give the bride away. This would be frightening if I didn't know from other sources, that you have been recently hospitalized and have been considerably improved.

I cannot possibly get down for the reunion on October 10th. We are editing the First Volume of the Battle for Leyte Gulf which will probably be in Three Volumes, as well as working on the Second Volume at the same time. This requires my continued presence in Newport. However, Admiral Taffinder will be there and you can say "hello" to him for me.

I recently went out to California for three weeks, as you know, and found my mother improved. She has been in the hospital for the last year, but now I hear that she has suffered a slight stroke. This means that it is merely a question of time before she joins her Maker. For this reason I have to save the little leave that I accumulate from month to month in order to be able to fly out should I be needed.

I am very impressed with Eisenhower's campaign. He is definitely succeeding, otherwise the President would not be attacking him in such a cheap manner. I certainly hope that he gets elected and I am so anxious to see him in that I have registered to vote for the first time in my life. If he does get in it will be very gratifying to you because you are the one who put him in the Army and you are his very close friend. You mustn't take any political

0443

assignment from him however. Swede Hazlett alive is much better to his family and his friends than Swede Hazlett in the ground. I hope you have noted that Messers Early and Niles of the President's White House staff have recently died from overwork. (Tain't good!)

I continue to be in good shape so long as the weather is cool, but when the temperature and the humidity rise too high I tend to deteriorate.

While out on the coast I saw Spud and Kay Hicks. Kay is swell, but Spud is not too good. Actually he looks quite ancient, and Kay says that he is not strong. He is the same old Spud though, with the same voice and pleasant manner. I can hear him now "Listen McCaffery, we do it this-a way."

Give my warmest regards to Ibby and as for yourself, look out for yourself so that we may have you with us for a long time.

With very best regards, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Captain E.E. Hazlett, USN(Ret),  
Forest Hills,  
Chapel Hill, N.C.

October 17, 1952

Dear Swede:

I noticed this picture in yesterday's morning Tribune of your good friend General Eisenhower walking down the railroad tracks and I was reminded of a story at the War College which had been given on the platform but two days before. I think that it is quite amusing and may be you can send it to Ike and it might give him a laugh in the midst of heavy pressure.

My brother writes me that he is quite upset that General MacArthur and General Eisenhower have not gotten together. He says that it is not right that, for personal reasons, these two generals refuse to support one another and thereby may cost the election. He thinks that California will be close and may go Democratic unless MacArthur supports Eisenhower. I note that Drew Pearson says that it will happen in a few days. I hope so.

I hope that you enjoyed your trip to Annapolis over the Alumni reunion. It must have been fun!

My best regards to your family, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain E. E. Hazlett, USN(Ret),  
Forest Hills,  
Chapel Hill, N. C.

0445

October 21, 1952

Dear Louie:

I wander between Newport and Washington fairly frequently, as you know, so it was with some surprise upon returning from Washington the other day that I, in endeavoring to go to your home, noticed the gates closed. I asked several people where you were and discovered that you were in the hospital in Boston. I spoke to Edward Eyre and he said that he had received word from you that you were better. I could have not been more concerned about your illness. You have been an old friend of mine, lo! all these many years and you and your Daisy were so happy as to make it a most unhappy circumstance for you to be ill.

I have certainly hoped that your note to Edward Eyre is correct, that you are improved, and that we will soon have your kindly-understanding-loyal self back again with us. It is only when one who has your qualities is away that one realizes the nature of these qualities and promptly misses them. Get well for everyone's sake! How can you entertain President Eisenhower in Washington if you persist in being ill?

Newport is moving along quietly with nothing remarkable occurring, although there is some social activity. At the present time we have, at the War College, a French Vice Admiral Pierre Barjot from the Middle East who is very pleasant.

I saw Robert Goelet on Sunday and he stated that his broken leg is knitting well. I think he said that he was to have X-rays on it yesterday.

Give my best to Daisy and as for yourself, hurry up and come back to your friends!

With warmest regards, I am,

Your old friend,

Mr. Louis Bruguiere,  
Phillips House,  
Massachusetts General Hospital, R.W. BATES.  
Boston, Massachusetts.

0446



October 29, 1952

Dear Lynde:

As I promised, I am sending you the enclosed editorials from the Boston Herald on the Mainbrace Operation which they titled "Operation Flop." I am also sending you Secretary Floberg's article "Sea Power's Sunday Punch" which you may be interested in. I realize, of course, that it is not impossible that you have already received these papers in which case they may be of no value. On the other hand you may not have seen them in which case they may be of value to you. In either case, here they are.

I know that you are having an interesting time in your present assignment and I also know that things are going along very well with you. I always look forward to the day that you will be President of this institution so that you will be able to give us the benefit of your wide experience in such vital jobs as SACLANT, CINCLANT, to say nothing of the multitudinous other assignments in which you excelled.

As a matter of interest, we had a presentation on Mainbrace by Chet Wood which was very well done and it would have been helpful to the editors of the Boston Herald.

Please remember me very kindly to "Lil" for whom I have a deep affection, also to "Cato" Glover and as for yourself, my very best "Aloha."

With warmest personal regards and best wishes, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Admiral Lynde D. McCormick, USN,  
Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet,  
U.S. Naval Base,  
Norfolk, Virginia.

0447

November 4, 1952

Dear Stout:

Thank you very much for your two letters, one of which was quite optimistic, the other later one, quite pessimistic.

I can appreciate the situation on board the Lake Champlain, but I think that the same situation exists on most ships which are being removed from mothballs. Our expansion has been so rapid recently that we haven't enough experienced personnel to adequately man them. You seem to be worse off than most.

I am reluctant to try to make a change for you, although when I am in Washington in a couple of weeks I will speak to Captain Burke about this situation. I think it would be unfair to the ship to remove a man of your experience when there is so much inexperience. It seems to me that you will find both the Navigator and the Assistant Navigator falling back on you for help. You take responsibility well and I feel that once things get going and you are at sea you will shake down more readily than appears at the present. I always liked to take command of ships that were "shot" so that I might bring them to a high standard in limited time. You will have no greater satisfaction than to discover how well you do.

I know pretty well how it is with you and what the problems are because once or twice in my career I landed in the same boat.

In the Navy all we get is a "pat on the back" or a so-called "kick in the fanny." Satisfaction for a job well done (the pat on the back) has few equals.

Everyone here wants to be remembered to you.

0448

The book is almost complete--that is with exception of the typing by the civilian secretaries--and it should be out in a couple of months.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

*memile*  
M.E. Stout, QMC, USN,  
Lakeland Apartments 1519B,  
Irwin Avenue,  
Norfolk, Virginia.

0449

November 26, 1952

Dear Swede:

I suppose that you may wonder what has happened to me, so now that I have returned from California I am hastily writing you to let you know (a) I am O.K. and (b) I was thoroughly delighted at Eisenhower's victory. Naturally, as I wrote you on several occasions, I had no concern regarding his election. He was in and I knew it and I won \$100.00 on it!

I have been away in California because I lost my mother recently and, since my father is about ninety-three, I had to remain there after the funeral to try and reorganize him to his new situation. My mother's loss is quite a blow to us all, but since the Lord spared her to us these eighty-two years I feel that it is well.

I hope you are keeping in fine health and since your good friend Ike is about to assume the reins of government, I hope that the worries that the past administration placed on us all will disappear. Then your heart will improve. I hope mine will too.

General Eisenhower's choices for his cabinet seem to have been very well thought out and in all ways admirable. There is great enthusiasm on the West Coast for him and for his selections.

Although I only returned to Newport last night, I have already heard a rumor that a leading candidate for Secretary of the Navy--a non-cabinet post--is Captain John J. Bergen, USNR, New York City. Since Bergen is a strong Navy supporter, was assistant to Secretary Knox in World War II, is head of many corporations and is a graduate of the War College, I feel that he would be an admirable choice. Besides that he is a great personal friend and a devoted supporter of the Navy. If you have a chance to make any recommendations on this scope to Ike, you cannot make a mistake if you recommend Jack Bergen. I thoroughly commend him to you.

0450

While out on the Coast I had a chat with Admiral Nimitz as I was trying to discover who was going to be the new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, since it seems highly probable General Bradley is to retire. Admiral Nimitz did not know, at present, but feels that he will probably be consulted. He didn't say this, but I felt that it was inferred or at least hoped. My recommendation for this job is Vice Admiral Richard L. Conolly, now President of the Naval War College. Dick Conolly was runner-up with Sherman and later with Fechteler for CNO. There is no use mentioning too much about him to you as you know him very well indeed. "By their deeds shall you know them." However, I will say this. He is the ablest officer of his time and has already served four years in Europe as CinC with the rank of Admiral. He has only about 1 1/2 years more to do, and therefore could well fill the gap until Ike has had a chance to settle down. Fechteler, I understand, does not want this assignment.

I didn't see any of your particular friends out on the Coast, but this was because my time was employed in my personal family matters.

Are you taking a job in the new administration? I would like to see you do it, but as I told you before, a live Hazlett is better than a dead one. So, the job you take, if you do, must be one approved by the medical staff.

My best to Ibbey and to Alice.

With warmest regards, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Captain E.E. Hazlett, USN(Ret),  
Forest Hills,  
Chapel Hill, N.C.

December 2, 1952

Dear John:

It was nice to see you at the Army-Navy game and to hear your forecast of the changes in command. As I told you at the time, we know little of it here in Newport, and each "traveling salesman" from the Pentagon gives us a new answer. I have always felt that you had the "dope", and I am interested, therefore, in how your forecast will eventuate.

I wanted to say to you at the game that the thing I like most about Radford (and this also applies to you) is the fact that he did not accept an outside job, but remained with the Flag. This entitles him to almost anything, since I am sure that he, as well as you, has been offered good civilian jobs.

I am enclosing some papers written to you ten years ago which I consider are in some ways amusing. One of the officers in the War College gave them to me. I give them to you.

Give my best to Obie if you see him. Again, it was nice to see you at the Army-Navy game, particularly since we won!

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Encl.

Vice Admiral J. D. Price, USN  
Chief, Naval Air Training  
U.S. Naval Air Station  
Pensacola, Florida

0452

December 3, 1952

Dear Jack:

I received the Navy League program and menu which you sent me. They are tip-top and I am happy to have them. You seem to do well in everything you are called upon to do. If you keep it up I may give you a job in my section here at the War College.

I have read General Donovan's address and I think it is very much to the point and very satisfying to the assembly that listened to it and, more particularly, to the high command. We get so concerned about orthodox warfare in this land of ours that we forget that unorthodox warfare is vitally important. This is so because if unorthodox warfare is effective it will make the problem of orthodox warfare much easier.

I look through the papers each day to see whether the new President elect has named J.J. Bergen to be Secretary of the Navy. Until he does this I shall be dissatisfied.

Dick Conolly is working hard on the speech he is to make in Washington on Friday I think. I know it will be good.

He has an article in the Naval Institute Proceedings (January 1953). It is excellent.

With very best regards, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Mr. John J. Bergen,  
40 Wall Street,  
New York, N.Y.

0453

December 8, 1952

Gentlemen:

Last week I found occasion to write a letter of regret to your company because of a failure to complete my overcoat as called for by the purchase agreement. A day or so later I was called by your firm, most courteously informed that it was a very unhappy mistake, and advised that Anderson and Little planned then and there to complete the overcoat as scheduled. About an hour later your representative arrived at my office here at the War College, told me what you planned to do, and took my overcoat back. Today the completed overcoat was returned to me and found to be highly satisfactory.

I want to thank you very much for this excellent service. I realize that all of us are human, and all err on occasions. However, sometimes those responsible do not know of these errors and the firm gets a bad name for reasons entirely unknown to the top command. It was for that reason that I made my complaint.

Your quick endeavor to recover once again the goodwill which I as a customer had previously had for your firm and the satisfactory job done on the overcoat, have given me renewed faith in the competence of Anderson-Little Company, Inc.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES,  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.

Anderson-Little Company, Inc.,  
Fall River, Massachusetts.

0454



December 11, 1952

Dear Ralph:

Every now and then a voice from the past bursts into our hearing and we are astonished that this should be. Today you hear a voice from someone whom you have not seen nor heard from since Leyte--he is your old friend Rafe Bates whether you know it or not. As you know, we rarely burst into print unless we want something. So immediately a query arises in your mind. What does Rafe want? It is this.

A friend of mine who is a Lieutenant Commander in the Naval Reserve (Retired) is a member of a duck hunting club located near Norfolk. It is the Swan Island Hunting Club. His name is Theodore Grosvenor. Being an old Navy flyer he feels that you must have an aerial map of his Club which he might obtain. I told him that if you had such a photograph you would probably give it to him, but if you did not have one the Navy was not going to make such a photograph at Navy expense.

If your photographic section has such a photograph this is what Mr. Grosvenor is seeking, viz.:

A photograph of Currituck Sound south of Virginia Beach located by (a) Penny Hill Coast Guard Station 167 (a high sanddune right limit) 6 miles north of Currituck Light and (b) Coast Guard Station 168 coastal strip outer boundary Currituck Sound. Photograph 3 miles north - 3 miles south and 5 miles inland.

I hope that the above is clear to you--it isn't entirely so to me--and that you can provide it.

Now to a new subject. How are you and how goes it with the whole Davis clan? If you are interested at all in me, I am here at the Naval War College where I am writing the critical analyses of the Naval battles of World War II. I

0455

have completed three analyses: Coral Sea, Midway and  
Savo Island, which perhaps you have seen and two movies:  
Coral Sea and Midway. I am now working on Leyte. If  
you haven't done so, I suggest that you show the movies  
to your higher officers. They have been well received  
here and elsewhere.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New  
Year, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Rear Admiral Ralph O. Davis, USN,  
Commandant, FIFTH Naval District,  
U.S. Naval Base,  
Norfolk 11, Virginia.

0456

December 18, 1952

Gentlemen:

Please send one box each of your Ponderosa Gift Box No. 202 to the following addresses:

1. Mrs. Ottavio Prochet,  
The Waves  
Ledge Road,  
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 2. Captain & ~~Mrs.~~ Kenneth Castleman,  
Chart House,  
Oakwood Terrace,  
Newport, R.I.
3. Mrs. C. Oliver O'Donnell,  
Cave Cliff  
LeRoy Avenue,  
Newport, R.I.
4. Mr. & Mrs. John Richmond,  
Seaward,  
Cliff Avenue,  
Newport, R.I.
5. Admiral & Mrs. Edward Kalbfus,  
Restmere,  
Miantonomi Avenue,  
Newport, R.I.
6. Mr. William Whitehouse,  
Stone Villa,  
Bellevue Avenue,  
Newport, R.I.
7. Mr. & Mrs. Forsyth Wickes,  
Zee Rust,  
Narragansett Avenue,  
Newport, R.I.
8. Mrs. Andrew Wilson,  
Ayrault House,  
45 Catherine Street,  
Newport, R.I.

0457

9. Captain Thomas Hederman, USN,  
U.S. Naval Base,  
Newport, R.I.
10. Captain Joseph Rochefort, USN,  
U.S. Naval War College,  
Newport, R.I.
11. Commander & Mrs. Albert H. Bowker,  
U.S. Naval War College,  
Newport, R.I.
12. Commander & Mrs. S.E. Hindman,  
U.S. Naval War College,  
Newport, R.I.
13. Commander & Mrs. C.A. Marinke,  
U.S. Naval War College,  
Newport, R.I.
14. Rear Admiral & Mrs. Wallace Beakley,  
U.S. Naval War College,  
Newport, R.I.
15. Chief Yeoman & Mrs. M.W. Burton,  
113 Cooledge Street,  
Revere 51, Massachusetts.
16. Chief Quartermaster & Mrs. S.T. Trembath,  
103 Champlin Place,  
Newport, R.I.
17. Yeoman & Mrs. Charles V. Waldron,  
126-A, Lawrence Street,  
Middletown, R.I.
18. Mrs. John Kane,  
32 Catherine Street,  
Newport, R.I.
19. Mrs. Louis Bruguieres,  
Wakehurst,  
Newport, R.I.

A check for \$78.85 to cover the purchase of the above nineteen boxes is enclosed.

0458

Please expedite the delivery. My delay is due to your delay  
in mailing me your prospectus.

Yours very truly,

R.W. BATES,  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.

Paso del Oro Rancho,  
P.O. Box 1004,  
Modesto, California.

Encl: Check for \$78.85